

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14390

FOR S/S

E. O. 16652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH INDIAN MINISTER OF
STATE FOR COMMERCE D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA, OCTOBER
28, 5:00 PM - RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

1. PARTICIPANTS: US - THE SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN,
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN, PETER RODMAN (NOTETAKER);
INDIA - MINISTER CHATTOPADHYAYA, 3-4 SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS

2. LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

3. PRESS ARRANGEMENTS: A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY MAY BE PROVIDED BE-
FORE OR AFTER THE MEETING. THERE WILL BE NO PRESS QUESTIONS.

4. CHECKLIST:

--POLITICS - HOW DOES HE FIND TIME FOR POLITICS AND WRITING
20 BOOKS.

--TRADE - WELCOME EFFORTS TO STIMULATE INDIAN EXPORTS.

--GATT - US TRADE LEGISLATION WILL BE PASSED SOON. GATT
NEGOTIATIONS IN 1975.

--JOINT COMMISSION - WORK TOGETHER TO DEVISE NEW
METHODS TO INCREASE TRADE.

--HIS WASHINGTON VISIT - YOUR SATISFACTION THAT HE WAS ABLE TO
MEET AND TALK WITH SECRETARY DENT.

5. BEGIN BACKGROUND.

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PERSONAL BACKGROUND: MINISTER CHATTOPADHYAYA IS A FORMER PROFESSOR

AND AUTHOR OF ABOUT 20 BOOKS ON SOCIO-POLITICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL SUBJECTS. HE COMES FROM THE LEFT WING OF THE CONGRESS PARTY BUT IS NO DOCTRINAIRE MARXIST. SINCE BECOMING MINISTER OF COMMERCE HE HAS CONCENTRATED HIS EFFORTS ON INDIAN EXPORT PROMOTION AND HE IS ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. HE VISITED WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS MONTH AND MET WITH SECRETARY DENT.

6. LIKELY INDIAN POSITION: THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL TRADE PROBLEMS BUT CHATTOPADHYAYA MIGHT RAISE THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

US TRADE LEGISLATION - HOPES THAT US LEGISLATION WILL BE PASSED AND GATT NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN.

TARIFF PREFERENCES - CONCERNED ABOUT SOME ASPECTS OF US LEGISLATION. TRADE PROMOTION - MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO STIMULATE EXPORTS.

JOINT COMMISSION - SEES THIS AS FORUM FOR GREATLY EXPANDED COMMERCIAL/TRADE CONTACTS.

MICA STOCKPILE DISPOSALS - CONCERN ABOUT US MICA STOCKPILE DISPOSALS.

JUTE - US IS CHIEF MARKET AND THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT COMPETITION FROM SYNTHETICS.

COTTON - INTERESTED IN BUYING US COTTON.

7. TALKING POINTS

EXPECT US TRADE LEGISLATION TO BE PASSED LATER THIS YEAR AND GATT NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN IN 1975.

ALWAYS WILLING TO TALK ABOUT PREFERENCES; WE HOPE INDIA WILL BE MAJOR BENEFICIARY OF LEGISLATIONS.

MICA STOCKPILE DISPOSALS HAVE CAUSED NO DIFFICULTIES SO FAR. PREPARED TO LOOK AT ANY INFORMATION TO CONTRARY.

JUTE SHOULD CONTINUE TO FIND GOOD MARKET IN US PROVIDING SENSIBLE EXPORT PRICING POLICIES FOLLOWED.

WHICH INDIAN EXPORT PRODUCTS OFFER BEST PROSPECT FOR US MARKET, IN LIGHT HIS VISIT TO NEW YORK/WASHINGTON?

COTTON IS AVAILABLE AT FAVORABLE PRICES. WE WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST AS DESIRED. (WE OFFERED CCC CREDIT BUT INDIANS REJECTED IT AS TOO EXPENSIVE).

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PREPARED TO DISCUSS NEW METHODS TO EXPAND TRADE IN JOINT COMMISSION OR ELSEWHERE.

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